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Amendment to the Claims

1.(Withdrawn) An assembly of sheet materials in which a first sheet of material and a second sheet of material are disposed in an overlapping relationship, with a plurality of joint portions being formed therebetween by drawing an overlapping part of the first and second sheets of materials at a plurality of positions,

wherein said plurality of joint portions includes at least one first joint portion in which said first sheet of material is laterally extruded into said second sheet of material and at least one second joint portion in which said first sheet of material and said second sheet of material are in contact with each other in a cup-like surface configuration.

2.(Previously Presented) A tube assembly comprising a first tubular body and a second tubular body disposed such that walls of said first and second tubular bodies overlap, a plurality of joint portions being formed between said first and second tubular bodies by drawing in a drawing direction an overlapping part of the walls of said first and second tubular bodies at a plurality of positions, wherein said plurality of joint portions includes at least one first joint portion in which the wall of said first tubular body is laterally extruded into the wall of said second tubular body and at least one second joint portion in which the walls of said first tubular body and said second tubular body are in contact with each other in a cup-like surface configuration,

the wall of said first tubular body including a forward surface located forward relative to the drawing direction, and the wall of said second tubular body including a rearward surface

located rearward relative to the drawing direction,

in the first joint portion, the forward surface including a portion that is enlarged diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the rearward surface including a portion that is enlarged diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the diametrically enlarged portion of the forward surface being extruded into the diametrically enlarged portion of the rearward surface, thus ensuring high peeling resistance,

in the second joint portion, the forward surface including a portion that is reduced diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the rearward surface including a portion that is reduced diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the diametrically reduced portion of the forward surface being in contact with the diametrically reduced portion of the rearward surface such that they are separable from each other in the drawing direction.

3. (Withdrawn) An assembly of sheet materials according to claim 1, wherein the laterally extruded shape of said first joint portion is formed by striking a rivet into the overlapping part of said first and second sheets of materials.

4. (Previously Presented) A tube assembly according to claim 2, wherein the laterally extruded shape of said first joint portion is formed by a rivet that has been driven into the overlapping part of the walls of said first and second tubular bodies.

5. (Original) A tube assembly according to claim 2, wherein said first tubular body forms a

support member and said second tubular body forms a tube for a piston-cylinder assembly.

6. (Original) A tube assembly according to claim 5, wherein said piston-cylinder assembly forms a suspension cylinder and said support member forms one member selected from a spring seat and a knuckle bracket.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A drawing method for forming a tube assembly of claim 2, comprising the steps of:

providing two tubular bodies, one of which is fittingly disposed in the other to thereby overlap walls of said two tubular bodies;

positioning tools for drawing an overlapping part of the walls of the two tubular bodies, said tools being arranged circumferentially along said overlapping part while being diametrically opposed to each other; and

drawing said overlapping part simultaneously at a plurality of positions by means of said tools, said positions being arranged in an equally angularly spaced relationship.

13. (Withdrawn) A set of tools used in a drawing method of claim 12, including punches and dies,

said punches being provided around said overlapping part of the walls of the two tubular

bodies in an equally angularly spaced relationship, while being diametrically opposed to each other,

said dies being provided inside said overlapping part, each die cooperating with a corresponding punch to thereby draw said overlapping part,

said dies being supported by a hollow mandrel for insertion into said overlapping part in a state such that the dies are capable of radially reciprocal movement,

said hollow mandrel accommodating a working rod wedged behind each die, said working rod being axially movable so as to cause radially reciprocal movement of each die.

14. (Withdrawn) A set of tools according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said punches comprises a base portion and a distal end portion having a smaller diameter than the base portion, said base portion merging into said distal end portion through a curved surface having a predetermined radius of curvature.

15. (Previously Presented) An assembly, comprising:

a first body having a first layer and
a second body having a second layer, the bodies being disposed such that the first and second layers overlap, a plurality of joint portions being formed between said first and second bodies by drawing in a drawing direction an overlapping part of the layers of said first and second bodies at a plurality of positions,

wherein said plurality of joint portions includes at least one first joint portion in which the first layer is laterally extruded into the second layer and at least one second joint portion in which the first layer and the second layer are contact with each other in a cup-like surface configuration,

the first layer including a forward surface located forward relative to the drawing direction, and the second layer including a rearward surface located rearward relative to the drawing direction,

in the first joint portion, the forward surface including a portion that is enlarged diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the rearward surface including a portion that is enlarged diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the diametrically enlarged portion of the forward surface being extruded into the diametrically enlarged portion of the rearward surface, thus ensuring high peeling resistance,

in the second joint portion, the forward surface including a portion that is reduced diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the rearward surface including a portion that is reduced diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the diametrically reduced portion of the forward surface being in contact with the diametrically reduced portion of the rearward surface such that they are separable from each other in the drawing direction.

16. (Previously Presented) A tube assembly according to claim 2, wherein the first joint portion further comprises a rivet that is laterally extruded into the wall of the second tubular body.

17. (Previously Presented) A tube assembly according to claim 2, wherein in the first joint portion, the forward surface includes a concave portion, and the rearward surface includes a convex portion against which the concave portion abuts.

18. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 15, wherein in the first joint portion, the forward surface includes a concave portion, and the rearward surface includes a convex portion against which the concave portion abuts.

19.(New) A tube assembly comprising a first tubular body and a second tubular body disposed such that walls of said first and second tubular bodies overlap, a plurality of joint portions being formed between said first and second tubular bodies by drawing in a drawing direction an overlapping part of the walls of said first and second tubular bodies at a plurality of positions, wherein:

at least two joint portions of the plurality of joint portions are located at diametrically opposite positions perpendicular to the axial direction of the tube assembly,

said plurality of joint portions includes at least one first joint portion in which the wall of said first tubular body is laterally extruded into the wall of said second tubular body and at least one second joint portion in which the walls of said first tubular body and said second tubular body are in contact with each other in a cup-like surface configuration,

the wall of said first tubular body including a forward surface located forward relative to the drawing direction, and the wall of said second tubular body including a rearward surface

located rearward relative to the drawing direction,

in the first joint portion, the forward surface including a portion that is enlarged diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the rearward surface including a portion that is enlarged diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the diametrically enlarged portion of the forward surface being extruded into the diametrically enlarged portion of the rearward surface, thus ensuring high peeling resistance, and

in the second joint portion, the forward surface including a portion that is reduced diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the rearward surface including a portion that is reduced diametrically relative to the drawing direction, the diametrically reduced portion of the forward surface being in contact with the diametrically reduced portion of the rearward surface such that they are separable from each other in the drawing direction.

20.(New) The assembly as claimed in claim 15, at least two joint portions of the plurality of joint portions are located at diametrically opposite positions perpendicular to an axial direction of the assembly.